

grayanotoxins (Mancini and Edwards, 1979. *Journal of Natural Products* 42(5): 483–488), which occur in a number of species of *Kalmia* and other genera in the Ericaceae. Nonetheless, it is not clear whether the alderflies and stoneflies stuck to the flowers actually died of poisoning or desiccation.

How both insect species moved to the mountain laurel flowers is not known. *Sialis vagans* and *A. nigritta* in flight may have selected the mountain laurel bushes along the pond and stream margins to rest or mate. They may also have emerged at or near the pond and stream margins, crawled up the bushes to expand their wings, and

become stuck to the flowers as they climbed.

This novel observation may prove useful to collectors, as more taxa may be collected from mountain laurel flowers.

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K. D. Stewart and R. M. Duffield, *Department of Biology, Howard University, Washington, DC 20059, U.S.A. (e-mail: rduffield@fac.howard.edu)*

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NOTE

New Synonymies in Australia *Psix* Kozlov and Lê (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae: Telenominae)

Johnson and Masner (1985. *Systematic Entomology* 10: 33–58) revised the world species of the telenomine genus *Psix* Kozlov and Lê, recognizing 18 species. The genus is primarily found in the Old World tropics, with at least one probable accidental introduction into the New World. In fact, several species had been described before Kozlov and Lê (1976. *Zoologicheskii Zhurnal* 55: 143–145) first described the genus from Afghanistan. The varied placement of these early species reflected the confused taxonomy surrounding the large genera *Telenomus* Haliday and *Trissolcus* Ashmead. The work of Nixon (1935. *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 83: 73–103, and subsequent papers) allowed us to recognize species of *Psix* among the Afrotropical and Oriental *Trissolcus* (then known as *Microphanurus* Kieffer). However, the Australian species

were a more difficult problem. Dodd, beginning in 1913, described 102 species of Telenominae, but because he had to rely solely upon the vague, insufficient, and sometimes inaccurate descriptions available at the time, it was difficult to equate his generic concepts with those that developed and were accepted in later years. Johnson and Masner (1985) were able to recognize that *Telenomus olympus* Dodd was, in fact, a species of *Psix* on the basis of a specimen identified by Dodd in the Australian National Insect Collection. Correct generic assignment of the bulk of his species, however, required first-hand examination of the remaining type material.

Johnson (1988. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 90: 229–243) reported on the types of Australian species of telenomines described by Dodd and recognized that two further spe-

cies should be placed in the genus *Psix*: *Telenomus elpenor* Dodd and *Telenomus omphale* Dodd. However, the relationship of these two taxa to the species recognized in Johnson and Masner (1985) was not resolved. Through the kindness of Dr. Gordon Gross of the South Australian Museum, I have been able to study the unique specimens of these two Australian *Psix* and place them in their proper context.

Psix elpenor (Dodd) was described from two female specimens collected in Kuranda, northern Queensland (16°40'S, 145°38'E). Dodd's description is based entirely on a comparison with the species *Psix olympus* (Dodd), the primary distinguishing characteristic being the difference in size between the two (*P. elpenor* "much larger"). I believe these specimens belong to the same species, with the name *Telenomus elpenor* Dodd, 1914 becoming a junior synonym of *Telenomus olympus* Dodd, 1913 (**new synonymy**). *Psix olympus* is characterized by the acutely tridentate mandibles, the light-colored radicle, and the absence of notauli. The species is known only from the forests of eastern Queensland, from Mt. Tamborine in the south, north to Mossman.

Psix omphale (Dodd) was described from a single female specimen collected in Nelson (present day Gordonvale), Queensland (17°05'S, 145°47'E). I earlier reported (Johnson 1988) that the radicles of the antennae are missing from the holotype. They

are absent from the slide mount of the antennae, but in fact are still attached to the head of the point-mounted specimen, hidden in the glue that covers the lower part of the face and mouthparts. Most *Psix* species are noteworthy for the contrast in color between the radicle (dark brown to black) and the remainder of the scape (usually yellow), a characteristic quite useful in separating some Australian species. The radicle of *P. omphale* is dark, and this specimen belongs to the complex of three closely related species, *P. fusus* Johnson and Masner, *P. metopa* Johnson and Masner, and *P. glabriscrobis* (Girault). The fore and mid coxae are clearly separated by the mesepisterna, thus eliminating *P. fusus*. The specimen is very similar to *P. glabriscrobis*, except for the near absence of any transverse microsculpture on the second metasomatic tergite. Its body shape, however, matches the stout form of *P. glabriscrobis* and not the more elongate habitus of *P. metopa*. Thus, I conclude that *Telenomus omphale* Dodd, 1913, and *Telenomus glabriscrobis* Girault, 1916, are synonyms, with Dodd's name now replacing that of Girault as the valid name for the species (**new synonymy**). *Psix omphale* appears to be widely distributed through eastern and central Australia.

Norman F. Johnson, *Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43212-1192, U.S.A. (e-mail: johnson.2@osu.edu)*